

MD-266
Prince George's County

CHELTENHAM BATTERY
Cheltenham, Maryland

Site Location

The Cheltenham Battery site is located in southern Prince George's County at 10800 Frank Tippet Road, Cheltenham, Maryland, just west of Route 3/301. The site is in the back yard of a residence. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lanier, Jr. own the site and the house, and occupy the house.

The site is in a rural residential area of the county. The majority of residents rely on privately owned wells. A new undeveloped housing project lies directly north of the house. A storage shed and vegetable garden are to the east, and another residence is about 100 yards south of the site.

Site History

In April 1984, Charles Lanier obtained a contract to remove used buoy batteries from the U.S. Coast Guard's facility at Curtis Bay in Baltimore, Maryland. The Coast Guard signed the removal contract with C&G Services without requesting proper hazardous waste hauling certification. Mr. Lanier was not aware that certification was needed, or that the materials were hazardous. The company removed 6,000 to 7,000 batteries from the Curtis Bay facility in 1984 and 1985. The batteries were stored at the Cheltenham property of Charles Lanier's father. Mr. Lanier intended to recycle the batteries, storing them until a buyer could be located, but he could not find a buyer for them.

Environmental Investigations

The Prince George's County Health Department informed the State of Maryland of the stored batteries at the Lanier property in October 1986 when they received a complaint from Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lanier, Jr., who were trying to purchase the home from the

senior Lanier's estate. A site visit on October 22, 1986 found the batteries were stored in a haphazard manner and several were damaged and leaking. A soil sample and battery labels were collected at the site. The batteries, manufactured by McGraw-Edison and Saft, had a pH as high as 14 and some contained mercuric chloride. The McGraw-Edison batteries contained KOH as an electrolyte and the Saft batteries contained a gel electrolyte.

In December 1986, the Coast Guard Strike Team removed the batteries, and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) collected soil samples for chemical analysis. An EP Toxicity test of the batteries by the Coast Guard revealed 2 to 4 parts per million (ppm) mercury in the batteries. Soil analyses found total lead concentrations in the soil as high as 189 ppm and total mercury levels as high as 3.4 ppm.

In March 1987, the DHMH issued Site Complaint 87-180 to the Coast Guard and Charles Lanier. The Coast Guard was asked to clean up the site. In October 1987, the top six inches of soil were removed from an approximately 6,800 square foot area, a six-inch layer of clean fill was applied and the area was graded, seeded and mulched. The site was retested in June 1987 using the same grid pattern that was used for the pre-removal sampling. The Waste Management Administration (WMA) and the Science Health Advisory Group determined the soil contamination would not to pose a significant public health concern. Local

1984	Charles Lanier contracted to remove batteries from U.S. Coast Guard facility.
1984-1985	Six to seven thousand batteries removed form Curtis Bay facility.
1986	Prince George's County Health Department informed Maryland officials of the stored batteries at the Lanier property. A site visit was made. Coast Guard Strike Team removed the batteries. DHMH collected soil samples.
1987	DHMH issued a Site Complaint to the Coast Guard and Mr. Lanier. Coast Guard was asked to clean up site. WMA and Science Health Advisory Group determined the soil contamination did not pose a public health concern.
1988	HSWMA conducted a <i>Preliminary Assessment</i> ; recommended no further action.

residential wells and soils in runoff areas from the site were tested after cleanup. No contaminants were detected. Local children were tested for mercury blood levels. No high mercury levels were detected.

In May 1988, the Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration (HSWMA) of the Maryland Department of the Environment visited the site to conduct a Preliminary Assessment. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lanier, Jr. still occupied the on-site house. A sales trailer was at the entrance to a proposed subdivision adjacent to the site, but no homes had been constructed. A thick growth of grass covered the former battery storage area. A garden east of the site was freshly tilled. Underground storage tanks directly south of the battery storage site had been removed. Oil stained soil was found only in the area of the former pump. Further to the south, a large area was covered by fresh fill; some of the fill contained construction debris. HSWMA concluded in the *Preliminary Assessment* report that cleanup of the site had been completed and no further action on this site was recommended.

Current Status

The Formerly Investigated Sites List identifies State Master List sites at which the Maryland Department of the Environment has determined, on the basis of available information, that no further action by the State is planned.

Facility Contact

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